

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 DOTE-00 L-03
IGA-02 EUR-12 /081 R

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-----070348Z 092115 /61

R 061924Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, EAID, US, MP

SUBJECT: GOM REQUEST FOR USG TO SUPPLY BUSES

REF: PORT LOUIS 268

1. REGRET TO REPORT THAT THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT THAT THE USG CAN ASSIST THE GOM IN MEETING ITS BUS NEEDS.
2. AID ADVISES THAT EGYPTIAN PROGRAM MENTIONED REFTTEL IS A SPECIAL AND DISTINCT CASE, INVOLVING INTER ALIA, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT. REGRET AID IS UNABLE TO MEET GOM'S REQUEST.

3. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT QUERY, EXIM INFORMALLY
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ADVISES IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE BANK WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING A LOAN FOR THIS PURPOSE. FACT THAT BUSES WOULD EARN NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND THAT INVESTMENT WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE SELF-LIQUIDATING, SHARPLY DIMINISHES APPEAL OF PROJECT IN EXIM'S EYES.

4. WE ASSUME THAT THE GOM IS WELL AWARE OF OTHER POSSIBLE

LENDERS, SUCH AS THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (ADF) AND THE WORLD BANK. NEVERTHELESS, YOU MIGHT WISH TO SUGGEST TO THE GOM THAT IT PURSUE THESE POSSIBILITIES.

5. FYI ONLY: LEGISLATION IS PENDING IN CONGRESS TO DRAMATICALLY INCREASE THE US CONTRIBUTION TO ADF, WHICH MAY IMPROVE LIKELIHOOD OF A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO GOM PROPOSAL. DESKOFF ALSO INFORMALLY DISCUSSED GOM'S INTEREST WITH WORLD BANK LOAN OFFICER, WHO INDICATED BANK'S AWARENESS OF MAURITIAN TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS AND SAID THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY LOOK FAVORABLY ON A MAURITIAN LOAN REQUEST FOR BUS PURCHASES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT GOM SEEMS TO REGARD WORLD BANK AS A LENDER OF LAST RESORT, AND HAS NOT IN FACT DRAWN DOWN FUNDS WHICH BANK HAS ALLOCATED FOR IT. END FYI.

6. ANOTHER OBVIOUS ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR GOM TO SEEK COMMERCIAL FUNDING FOR PART OF ITS BUS NEEDS, IN ORDER TO GET SHIPMENTS STARTED QUICKLY, MEANWHILE SHOPPING FOR MORE ATTRACTIVE TERMS FOR REMAINDER OF REQUIREMENTS.

7. IT APPEARS IN ANY CASE THAT US-MANUFACTURED CHASSIS AND/OR COMPLETE BUSES ARE UNLIKELY TO BE COMPETITIVE. THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY ONLY THREE US MANUFACTURERS OF MASS TRANSIT BUSES, ALL OF WHOM CURRENTLY PRODUCE ONLY BUSES WHICH ARE PROBABLY TOO LONG AND WIDE FOR MAURITIAN CONDITIONS. SCHOOL BUSES OR BUS CHASSIS MIGHT BE ADOPTED TO MAURITIAN NEEDS, BUT EVEN THEN WE SUSPECT TRANSPORTATION COST WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE. WHILE WE HAVE NOT RE-

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SEARCHED THE POINT IN DETAIL, HOLDEN (AUSTRALIA) MIGHT BE A POSSIBLE SOURCE, AS PRESUMABLY WOULD MANUFACTURERS IN EUROPE AND (PERHAPS) SOUTH AFRICA.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: PGSMITH:JJ
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770120-1234
Format: TEL
From: STATE
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770481/aaaacs1a.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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